Expedited Procedure Examining Group 1652

> PATENT 2173-0106P

## IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Yuji HATADA et al.

Conf.:

Appl. No.:

08/952,741

Group:

1652

Filed:

November 25, 1997

Examiner: Slobodyansky, E.

For:

GENE ENCODING ALKALINE LIQUEFYING ALPHA-

AMYLASE

## SECOND REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

February 12, 2002

Sir:

In reply to the Examiner's Final Office Action dated December 4, 2000, and to the Notification of Non-Compliance with 37 CFR 1.192(c) mailed January 11, 2002, the following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in connection with the aboveidentified application.

## IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 9, 11 and 17-19.

(Four times Amended) An isolated DNA molecule, that encodes the amino acid sequence described in Sequence No. 2 or a fragment thereof having  $\alpha$ -amylase activity.